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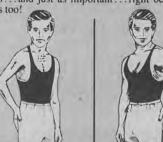






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CONTENTS/NOVEMBER 1983

6 MAILBAG

Texas Teamwork; Crazy Ratings; Lawler's The Greatest

8 THE TATTLER

Late news on Hulk Hogan, Austin Idol, and Angelo Mosca Jr.

10 THE INOUIRING REPORTER

Is there one wrestling hold you think should be banned?

12 WE ACCUSE

Tully Blanchard is responsible for Bob Sweetan's change to rulebreaker

14 WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

Honoring Pistol Pez Whatley

20 ASK THE STARS

Who is the most dangerous man in wrestling today?

22 SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW: SGT. SLAUGHTER

A controversial discussion with this hated superstar

26 BACKLUND VS. INOKI: WHAT A MATCH!

A once-in-a-lifetime scientific battle

29 WHO WILL DICK SLATER BE TODAY?

He can't decide which direction to take his career

32 MR. WRESTLING II'S LAST TITLE SHOT?

The fans can only hope it isn't true!

34 KAMALA THE UGANDAN GIANT: EVEN BRUISER BRODY

CANNOT CONTROL HIS SAVAGERY!

If Brody can't contain Kamala, who can?

37 A NIGHT OF MAYHEM AT THE MONTREAL FORUM!

An incredible night of professional wrestling

44 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

The sport's most respected rankings

46 RATINGS ANALYSIS

Some new faces this month

BIG MUSCLES? THE INSULT

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SPORTSMANLIKE? BULL!

I just received the September 1983 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, and I'm appalled by your "Wrestler of the Month" column. You chose Mr. Wrestling II as the Wrestler of the Month. How could you possibly choose him? You said Wrestling II was chosen because of the sportsmanlike way he accepted defeat from Larry Zbyszko. Sportsmanlike? Bull!



As long as Mr. Wrestling II wears the National title belt that rightfully belongs to Larry Zbyszko, he will not have the respect of reader Chris Powers.

About two weeks after Zbyszko by one of your dropkicks. I think won the National title, Mr. Wrestling II broke into Zbyszko's locker Freebirds will learn that you mean room and stole the belt! Mr. Wrestling II, Mr. Sportsmanlike, did home. I hope you will keep worktling II, Mr. Sportsmanlike, did home. I hope you will keep worktling II.

this! Wrestling II is a thief. The belt should be given back to Zbyszko. Wrestling II has disgraced the belt, he has disgraced himself, and, above all, he has disgraced the entire sport of wrestling.

When Zbyszko bought the belt, Bob Geigel stripped it from him. Now that Wrestling II has stolen the belt from Larry, do you think Geigel will get the belt back to Zbyszko? I doubt it.

How can Mr. Wrestling II call himself a scientific wrestler? If stealing belts isn't rulebreaking, I don't know what is. I used to like Mr. Wrestling II, but after he did this, I can't stand him!

CHRIS POWERS Severna Park, MD

TEXAS TEAMWORK

An open letter to Kevin, David, and Kerry Von Erich:

It's great to see three brothers work together as you do. It's certainly Texas' finest at work. I get a good laugh every time Michael Hayes or Jim Garvin is surprised by one of your dropkicks. I think that maybe in the future, The Freebirds will learn that you mean business, and maybe they will go home. I hope you will keep work-

ing together. I know you will always be number one!

> KAREN KELLER Jonesboro, IL

CRAZY RATINGS

I am writing in response to your ratings in the September 1983 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

I respect your ratings, and I think they're the best ratings anywhere in professional wrestling, but this month's ratings were crazy! First of all, I live in Brooklyn, and I know the WWF like I know the back of my hand. I know for a fact that the number one contender for Bob Backlund's belt is George Steele, not Don Muraco.



Butch Reed disregarded his scientific wrestling style and adopted a rulebreaking philosophy just before our September 1983 issue went to press.

Secondly, how could you put "Hacksaw" Butch Reed in the number 10 spot in the Most Hated ratings? He is a popular wrestler!

Last but not least, Ric Flair. The new NWA champion is Harley Race, and he is now number one in the top 10. Recent ex-champion Flair is number four in the top 10, and number one in the NWA. How could this be when your sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* put Flair number three in the NWA and not in the top 10 at all,

(Continued on page 56)

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MIAMI, FL—Florida wrestling fans have watched a metamorphosis occur before their eyes. Angelo Mosca has changed his ways since Kevin Sullivan and The Purple Haze attacked his son, Angelo Jr., on the nationally syndicated *Championship Wrestling From Florida* telecast.

Mosca Jr., who has been training for a career in the pro mat ranks, was in the arena when Barry Windham was violently double-teamed by the satanic tag team. When Sullivan and The Haze began to work on Mosca

Jr., Mosca Sr. came to both wrestlers' aid, even though he and Windham had previously been bitter enemies. In fact, it was Mosca Sr. who put Windham out of action for some time when he interfered in a bout between Barry and Frank Dusek.

Mosca has received the support of the Florida fan favorites in his quest to rid Florida of Sullivan and The Haze.

Mosca Jr. has recovered from the injuries suffered in the ambush, and has begun to compete professionally. He is a promising rookie who possesses all the power of his father. Maybe the attention he has received from the extraordinary circumstances surrounding Mosca Jr.'s entrance into professional wrestling will help his career in the long run.

—Myron Roth

S T. PAUL, MN—Hulk Hogan has returned to the AWA. Hogan, who left the area despondent over not being able to



HULK HOGAN

wrest the AWA World title from Nick Bockwinkel, traveled to Japan, where he defeated superstar (Continued on page 48)

CORRESPONDENTS

Larry Cohen Chicago, III.

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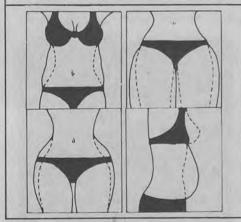
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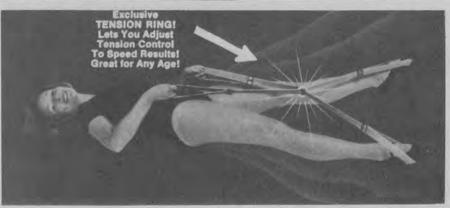




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THE OUESTION:

"Is there one wrestling hold that vou think should be banned?"

THE ANSWERS:

Diane Colchanik, San Antonio, TX: "My sister is a nurse, and one day she was watching wrestling with me when Bob Sweetan used the piledriver. Before she told me, I

didn't really know how dangerous that hold is. Besides being dropped on your head, all the vertebrae get jammed together. The top of the spinal column is the brain stem, you know, and if that gets jarred, you could be seriously hurt. I don't like Bob Sweetan much anymore, and I think the piledriver should be banned. The object is to pin your opponent, not kill him."

Kenny Garville, Buffalo, NY: "I'm always afraid that my favorite wrestler, Jimmy Snuka, is going to hurt himself when he gets up on



Jimmy Snuka puts himself in danger every time he performs his "superfly" leap, points out Kenny Garville.

the top rope for the "superfly." I figure that's a long way down. I know that he's a trained athlete and all, but what would happen if the guy he was wrestling moved, or if he caught Jimmy with a knee as he was flying down? The force of the impact would knock anyone out."

Steve Cohan, Miami: "The brain claw is very dangerous, and wres-(Continued on page 62)



Tully Blanchard feels the aftereffects of Bob Sweetan's piledriver. Many people in the medical profession have spoken out against the maneuver.

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Hank was perpetually broke. One minal a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim-but the accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the speli, a 40-year-old secretary, received an autimobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retirec, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs-FREE and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow-with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings-received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on pag 38 of this book!

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquartels in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing Survival, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have ap-peared in such national publications as Midnight and the National Enquirer.

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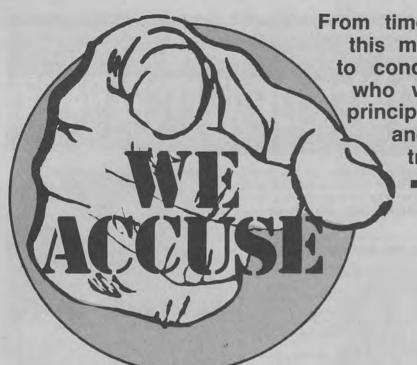
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From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

ALL OF WRESTLING mourns the recent return of Bob Sweetan to rulebreaking tactics. The embittered wrestler, only months ago a hero to fans all over the Southwest, has started to battle with a ruthless ferocity that can only mean ill for Southwest wrestling. Yet, we cannot condemn Sweetan for this turn of events.

If there is a villain in this occurrence, the blame must be given to Tully Blanchard. We accuse him of protecting his Southwest title to the detriment of the area's wrestling. And if the situation continues, who knows how many men will follow in Sweetan's footsteps.

Blanchard has many reasons for his behavior but no excuses.



Bob Sweetan, a former Southwest titleholder (above), has been unable to get a match with Tully Blanchard, the man who beat him for the championship. Sweetan's desire for a rematch was the main factor behind his change back to rulebreaking.





Wrestling against men like Bobby Jaggers, Sweetan had become a very popular man in the Southwest.

The Southwest title is a very valuable championship. It's possesor gets NWA title shots, can command instant respect when traveling to any other area, and is the most powerful man in one of the most important areas in the country. Few regional titles, if any, give their owner this much power.

Blanchard knows this as well as anyone. He also knows that Sweetan is one of the major challengers to that title. If anyone can take the title from Tully, Sweetan is the man experts pick as the one most likely to succeed. Bob patiently waited the title shot due him. It never came.

Sweetan's friends tell how long the wrestler trained for his championship challenge. Sweetan practiced a variety of difficult scientific maneuvers. He often said, "I'm not only going to be proud of winning the title, I'm going to be proud of how I do it. This match will be classic. I want to win the (Continued on page 50)

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Mr. D.H., Harrisburg, PA

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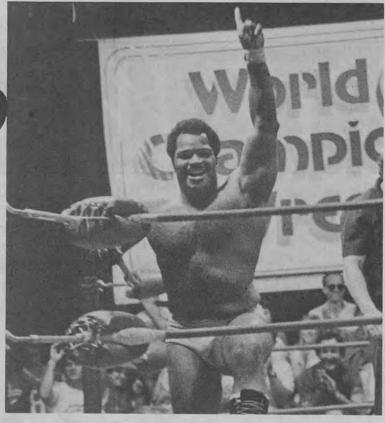
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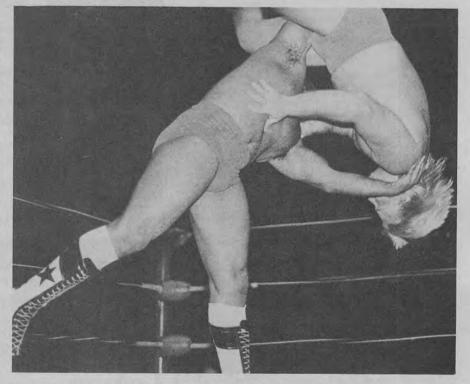


"Wrestler of the Month" Pistol Pez Whatley can proudly hold up his finger and call himself number one (above). Following victories over Buzz Sawyer and Killer Brooks, Pistol Pez upset U.S. champion Greg Valentine in a non-title match (below).

THE ONLY THING Pistol Pez Whatley needed was motivation. And now that he's gotten it, thanks to a slap on the face by his friend Junkyard Dog, there doesn't seem to be anyone who can stop him.

Based on a streak of extraordinary accomplishments, any of which would have previously been considered the crowning achievement of this ring veteran's career, Whatley has been chosen by the editorial staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* as the "Wrestler of the Month."

Whatley could take all the credit for his recent successes, but he has in interviews made a point of thanking JYD for putting him on target. "You're right," he said. "I have to thank the Dog for what he did to me. Thinking back, I have to admit that the very second he slapped me, I felt humiliated. You know, maybe that's just what I needed. He told me I had the abil-



ity to be the best. I just didn't have the drive. Now I do. I can be the best, and I will."

Frankly, the editors were stunned when we watched with the rest of the country as Whatley defeated Mad Dog Buzz Sawyer in front of the World Championship Wrestling cameras.

Managing Editor Stu Saks was shocked, but, after giving the mat-(Continued on page 18)

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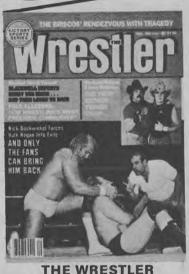
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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 14)



tling," Associate Editor Craig Peters said, "He's exciting, He's an extraordinary athlete. The people love him. Anyone who can put that all together is good for the sport. He's a winner."

Sawver isn't the only top contender Whatley has beaten. A sensational victory over Killer Brooks made Whatley an instant favorite with those in attendance at the in Altoona. Jaffa Mosque Pennsylvania.

The achievement of which Pistol

better caliber of opponent than I had. You learn from wrestling the best. But that night, I learned enough during our match to come out on top.

"The most exciting moment of the whole night was having my arm raised by the referee and hearing the fans scream. It sent chills up and down my spine. I had never heard anything like it before. That's when I decided that I had to do something for them."

By the time this magazine is on sale, a group of lucky fans will have been personal guests of Whatley's in The Omni for a wrestling show. "I wish I could do it for all my fans," he said. "They make the magic happen for me. That sound of applause, and whistles, and screaming brings out the best in me. There isn't a thing that's gonna stop me, as long as the crowd is on my side."

With the victory over Valentine, Whatley has to be considered a top challenger for Harley Race's NWA World title. But he doesn't seem that eager to step in the ring with the seven-time champion-vet. Is a bit of the old Pistol Pez coming back?

"The old Pistol Pez is dead and buried, you can be sure of that," he said. "But I'm not gonna jump into a title match until I'm absolutely sure. What happens if I get my shot at Race and I'm not ready for it? Number one, I blow a chance that I won't get back for a while. Title shots don't come every day.

"Number two, like I said before, vou learn a lot about a man from being in the ring with him. Race won't learn anything about me until I'm ready for him to. Even though he's the champion, I hold some of the cards when we meet."

Pez Whatley is hoping that one ful man, Valentine had wrestled a of those cards will be an ace.



Junkyard Dog yelled at Whatley and then slapped him in the face on national TV, embarrassing him into wrestling up to his potential (top). Whatley rides National champion Larry Zbyszko (above). Many people think Whatley can beat Zbyszko. But most important, Whatley thinks he can beat Zbyszko.

be a winner. "Pez never had the push," he said. "He seemed afraid. Not afraid of his opponents, but afraid of reaching the top. He wouldn't challenge anyone. He wouldn't go to the promoters and ask for the big matches.

"Maybe he just needed a little push to get him on his way," Saks continued. "Junkyard Dog gave that to him. Now I think he'll just keep moving. Hopefully, all the way to the top."

"Pez Whatley is good for wres-

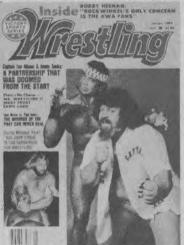
ter further thought, he realized that Pez is most proud, however, is his Whatley always had the talent to incredible non-title victory over United States champion Greg Valentine in Atlanta's Omni. Whatley came into the bout an overwhelming underdog. Valentine was believed to be a step up in class for the El Paso, Texas, native.

> "Going into the match," Whatley said, "I knew I was gonna be in there with a tough guy. He is a top five contender for the NWA World championship, and that was something I wasn't gonna take too lightly. Besides being a big, power-

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TOP WRESTLE TOWN QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, Sports Review Wrestling will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question that concerns all wrestling, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

The "Question of the Month" is:
"Who is the most dangerous man in professional wrestling today?"
Submitted by:
Belinda Drayton,
San Francisco, CA



JERRY LAWLER

"Nick Bockwinkel continues to disgrace the AWA World championship. He holds on to that belt by illegal means. He either gets himself disqualified or uses rulebreaking tactics to keep the title. His attitude poses a threat to the credibility of the AWA championship. And that's a dangerous situation. Something has to be done about it."



RICK MARTEL

"I spoke to my good friend Gino Brito in Montreal after his match with Abdullah the Butcher. I watched the blood run down his face, even as the doctors tried to clean him up and stitch his wounds. Gino described what it was like to have that man smothering you, biting into your forehead, and making you bleed. Abdullah has to be the most dangerous man in wrestling."



DUSTY RHODES

"Anyone who is destroying the dream, who is setting a bad example for the little boys and girls who come to the arenas to root for Uncle Dusty and his friends, anyone not playing by the rules set forth by the governing body of our sport, those are the dangerous ones. Those are the ones who will ruin it for all of us, and for the kids, those cute little kids."



TIGER CONWAY

"Anyone who has seen the Ugandan Giant can answer that question in a second. Kamala is a deranged man. You can see it in his eyes. He's a big, strong, powerful puppet who will do anything Skandor Akbar tells him to. That's the most dangerous thing of all."

RS'ANSWER OF THE MONTH



HARLEY RACE

"For the NWA World champion, every man is dangerous, every man is capable of taking something from you that you would defend with your life, and that thing is the gold belt that I have worn on seven different occasions, more times than any man in the history of the sport. I treat every title defense as a struggle for my life."



GREG GAGNE

"I would chose Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, but not for the typical reasons. Al-Kaissie has decided to use his wallet and not his wrestling skills. He buys wrestlers, and I think that could have a bigger effect on wrestling than the savagery of Bruiser Brody, Kamala, and Jesse Ventura combined."



CURT HENNIG

"There is one man who is capable of destroying professional wrestling. Fortunately for us, that man is Andre the Giant, and he has a heart of gold. A man of his talent and size could easily turn rulebreaker and run rampant over the sport. He holds all the cards. Luckily, he also has a sense of fair play. He's one in a million."



J.J. DILLON

"I say Ron Bass, and as always I will provide my rationale that stands behind this decision. Only Ron possesses all of these attributes: talent, desire, power, and intelligence. He is capable of doing whatever he wants to an opponent. And now that I am managing him, there is no one who can even test him in the ring."



RODDY PIPER

"The U.S. title is the one thing that makes Greg Valentine the most dangerous man in wrestling. Without the belt wrapped around his waist, he is nothing. He is an insecure little puppy who has absolutely no self-esteem. Without the belt, he has nothing else, and so he does anything to keep it."



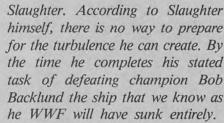
BUDDY ROGERS

"The most dangerous man in wrestling is Lou Albano. He has a disgusting talent for bringing out the worst in a man. He employs all kinds of psychology to get a man to do things in the ring that even the slightest sense of morality prohibits. He's very dangerous for wrestling."

SPORTS REVIEW

SGT. SLAUGHTER

Like a ship girding itself for a typhoon, the WWF tried to prepare for the recent onslaught of Sgt.

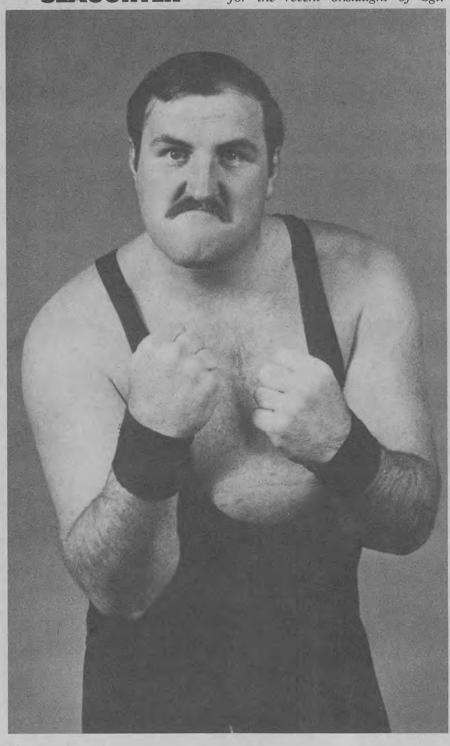


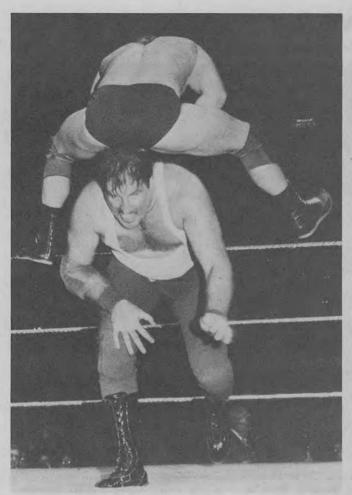
Slaughter expects to be victorious by using his infamous cobra clutch, a hold so devastating that several opponents have never fully recovered from it. After a man has endured its agony, he can never push himself to the limit again. Only the bravest man dares face Slaughter again after once being trapped in his clutches.

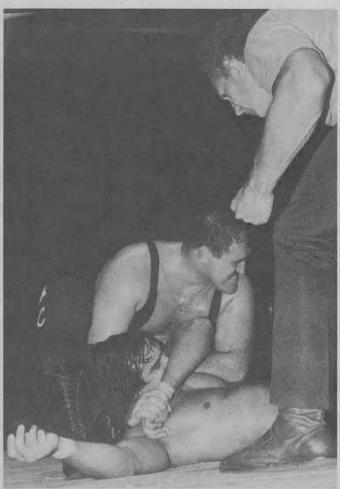
After terrorizing the Mid-Atlantic area, Slaughter decided to devote himself to the WWF championship. His reasons are as strange and fascinating as the man himself. This is more than ambition, as far as Slaughter is concerned. He has grand plans and winning the WWF title is only the start.

Managing Editor Stu Saks questioned Slaughter about those plans in a recent interview.

"I don't think," Saks says, "Slaughter intended to be so frank. He lost his temper almost immediately and started ranting. I'm sure later he wished he could take back some of the things he said. He had no intention of tipping his hand so thoroughly. In fact, he called me later and said he was lying throughout the interview. He then called my editor and said we never had an interview. Fortunately, I have a tape of the entire conversation. He calls the tape a fake. I promised to include that disclaimer in the article."







WWF champion Bob Backlund leaps over a charging Sgt. Slaughter during a title match in 1981 (above left). Slaughter wrestled against such men as Rick Steamboat in the Mid-Atlantic (above right) before driving his "camouflage mobile" back to the Northeast (below).

- Q: Once again, you're trying to take the WWF title from Bob Backlund.
- A: What do you mean once again?
 Let's get something straight from the beginning. The first time I wrestled for Backlund's title I was outnumbered. He and his crew—the officials, the referees, the promoters, and his interfering manager—never gave me a fair chance. Hell, I didn't have any chance at all.
- **Q:** Why should this time be any different?
- A: What kind of crack is that?

 Don't get sarcastic with me, pal. You should be flattered I'm even bothering to talk to you. To answer your question, which is more than you deserve, this time I'm ready for Backlund's army of protectors. I have a plan.
- Q: Can you tell us about it?



- A: It's a secret plan.
- Q: Oh, one of those.
- A: You know, I hate you punk reporters. So sure of yourselves. Well, pal, let me tell you how it's going to be. I'm going to own the WWF. I'm talking about controlling the area from

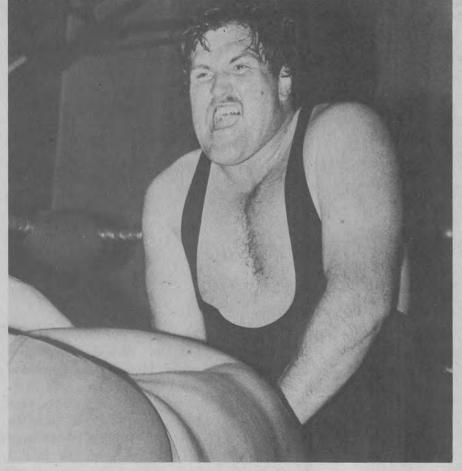
the bottom up. People say I've put Don Kernodle in preliminaries because I'm punishing him. Let 'em think that. Kernodle is down there because he's driving out the bums on the bottom while I get the scum off the top. And the plan is

INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 23)



Slaughter snares a bloody Wahoo McDaniel in his cobra clutch (above). The sergeant is angered by the current campaign to have his submission hold banned. Slaughter wraps his strong hands around the throat of Andre the Giant (below).



working, pal. We're doing the job right, from top to bottom. Kernodle is warring on the bottom because I sent him there. And he obeys, like a good soldier. When I'm in command, the WWF wrestlers will all be good soldiers—or they won't be in the WWF.

- Q: And what happens when you've conquered that world?
- A: You're so damn clever, aren't you, pal. Trying to make me seem like some sort of meglomaniac intent on conquering the world. Here's a scoop for you, punk. When the WWF is mine, you won't be able to buy a ticket. You will be exiled from wrestling!
- **Q:** Until then, do you want to answer my question?
- A: Sure, loser. After I get the WWF under my thumb, I'll send out my soldiers to conquer other areas. The NWA will be next. It'll crumble within two months. As a matter of fact, I've already got my soldiers wrestling there. Certain prelim

wrestlers, I won't mention any names, are wrestling under my orders. If you knew how close I am to conquering the NWA, you'd be begging me to save your worthless hide.

- Q: To change the ranting, I'd like to ask you about the cobra clutch. Many people say it has no place in sports.
- A: The same people who get the fans to cheer for them, even when they lose. I don't take



Given a fair opportunity, Slaughter is certain that he and The Grand Wizard will capture the WWF championship.

talk like that seriously. The cobra clutch is a perfectly legitimate move. If it wasn't so difficult to master, those bums would be doing it themselves. It takes great physical ability to execute the cobra clutch, something fan favorites have never had. Now Masked Superstar has started to use it, and he does it very well. Of course, his version can't compare to mine, but I admire him for trying.

- Q: Does it bother you at all that your victims suffer agonizing pain and that some of them are psychologically crippled?
- A: No.
- O: Is that all you have to say?
- A: No. I also intend to say goodbye right now. Get out.

O: With pleasure.

COMING OCTOBER 4...

WRESTLING 83

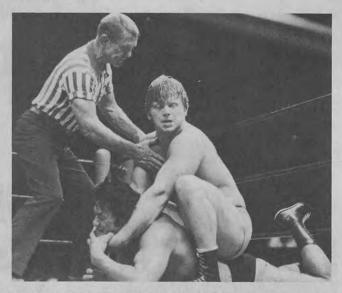
More Than A Wrestling Magazine!

Be sure to head for your newsstands on October 4, because the slickest, most colorful wrestling magazine ever will go on sale-WRESTLING 83. It's the debut issue of the most awaited wrestling publication ever. Pages of FULL-COLOR ACTION & PORTRAITS of wrestling's greatest stars, plus excellence in the tradition of Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler, and Inside Wrestling make WRESTLING 83 the magazine event of the year. More than a year . in the planning, WRESTLING 83 will deliver pages of color, action, and enjoyment unequaled anywhere. You've heard the talk about WRESTLING 83 for months. On October 4, you will see for vourself.

HERE'S A LOOK INSIDE THE DEBUT ISSUE:

- Full-length color features on Hulk Hogan, Tommy Rich,
 Ric Flair, and Harley Race
- Coverage of the horribly sadistic brawl between Jimmy Valiant and The Great Kabuki
- A sizzling interview with the undefeated Andre the Giant
- The experts pick the winner of a dream match between Bob Backlund and Superfly Snuka
- Our cameras bring you to the home of the legendary
 Mr. Wrestling II
- A column written by controversial wrestling manager
 Precious Paul Ellering
- Plus columns and features never before seen in a wrestling magazine





Western superstar Bob Backlund and Oriental champion Antonio Inoki both raise their arms in triumph after a spectacular match (below). Backlund tied Inoki up in a delicate bow-and-arrow maneuver (above left) and in a surfboard (above right), two standard western holds.

Backlund vs. I WHA MAT

EGEND HAS IT that there were two endings to the movie "King Kong versus Godzilla." American audiences saw the giant ape vanquish Godzilla and walk away in battered triumph. The

Oriental audience saw Godzilla drown King Kong and move away in battered triumph.

Now there was only *one* control ending to the Bob Backlund- match," d Antonio Inoki match. But journalist.

there are two different versions of who really did better in the match.

"Inoki was in complete control throughout the match," declared one Tokyo journalist.

A championship match that spans the globe, bringing together the best of Oriental and Western wrestling, is very special. The match between Antonio Inoki and Bob Backlund could be the epic scientific match of this century! Bob Backlund takes Inoki into the air (right) with his famous atomic spinebreaker. Inoki somehow recovered.

"I don't think I've ever seen Backlund manhandle an opponent like he did tonight," insisted an American writer accompanying the WWF champ on the trip.

Get the idea? Even the usually restrained Tokyo crowd reacted feverishly.

They applauded with uncharacteristic loudness

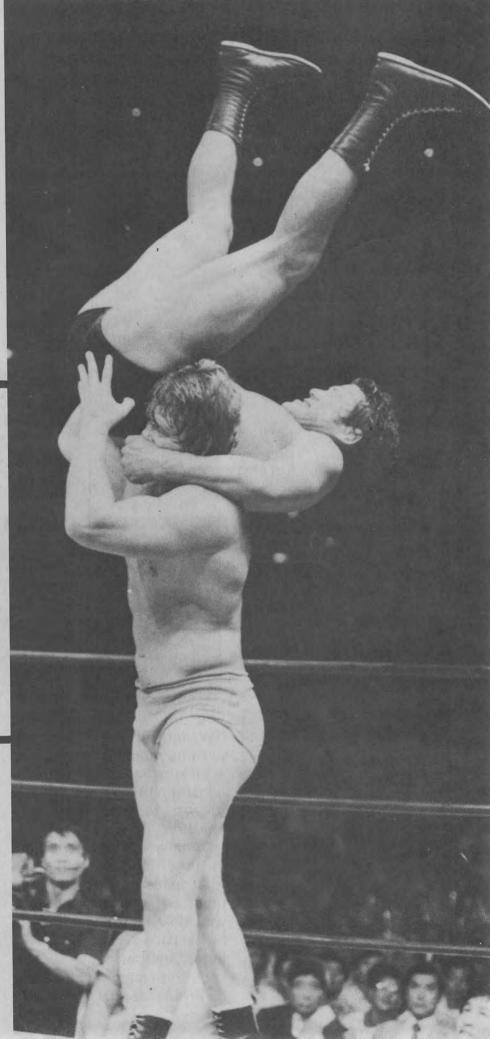
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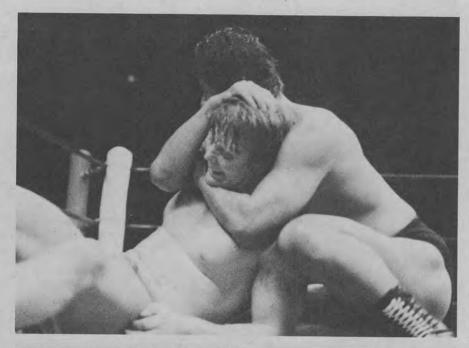
and piercing jeers which knifed through the huge arena.

That was what this match did to the fans. Putting aside the controversy over who actually won the match, let us focus on exactly what happened.

Despite a grueling journey, Backlund seemed fresh and exhilarated by the impending challenge.

"Some things just pump







Both wrestlers were near submission several times (above, left and below) as the pace was fierce. It was a classic scientific match.



Backlund showed Inoki and the Eastern fans diversified moves, both on the mat (above) and in the air (below).



you up," Backlund said. "Wrestling Inoki was an exciting moment for me."

Inoki is a tough grappler constrained by the Oriental ideals of courtesy and chivalry.

"I have waited a long time for this," Inoki said.

A measure of prejudice must be allowed. Not only was Inoki a local wrestler, but he is considered a national hero, another factor which kept this match within the boundaries of scientific

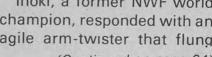
wrestling.

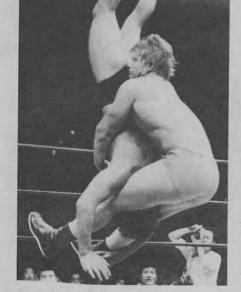
"I could never do anything to disgrace my people," Inoki said somberly.

They warily stepped around the ring, expressions guarded, tense. Backlund charged and maneuvered Inoki into an excruciating armhold.

"The first blow is the most important, after the last, that is," grinned Backlund.

Inoki, a former NWF world champion, responded with an agile arm-twister that flung





In a violent match against Rocky Johnson, Dick Slater proved just how vicious a man he can be. But there are other times when Dick will employ only scientific moves!

WHO WILL DICK SLATER BE TODAY?

DICK SLATER APPROACHED Rocky Johnson, growled ominously and thrust his fingers into Johnson's windpipe. Dazed, Rocky was vulnerable to a kick in the groin and a poke in his eyes. Slater danced around the ring, snarling at the jeers of the crowd.

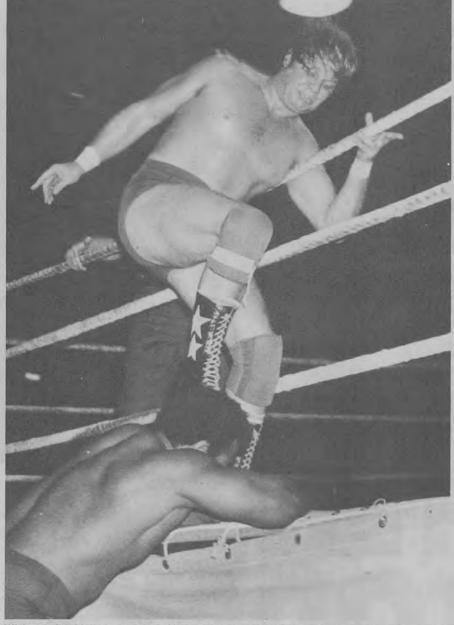
Stan Hansen grabbed Dick the real Dick Slater?

Slater under the armpits and attempted to smash his skull against the ropes. Slater whirled, tripped Hansen and delivered punishing elbowsmashes to Hansen's spine as the crowd bellowed its approval.

Villain or hero? Madman or scientific wrestler? Which one is the real Dick Slater?

Slater's career has been chameleon-like, though at least with that animal its color may be predicted by the hue of its surroundings. Slater has no such determinate. Bad guy in St. Louis. Good guy in Georgia. Bad guy in Georgia. Good guy in St. Louis. No pattern whatsoever, though one close friend offered

One day, Dick Slater is a vicious rulebreaker. The next day, he is an intelligent, scientific wrestler. No one can ever predict just how Slater will wrestle on any given day. And that is just the way he wants it



With a quick kick to the head, Slater tries to prevent Rocky Johnson from reentering the ring. Dick displayed some of his most vicious tactics on this night. It is remarkable that a man who seems so wicked at some times can be so scientific at other times. Slater remains a mystery to all.

an explanation.

"Dick has this thing about inner vibes. He got into reading books on a vibration cult when he was on the Coast many years ago," said a friend of Slater's. "There are times when he feels good about himself, good about his opponent, about his world, and he reacts accordingly by treating people with decency. Then there are times he feels vicious and so goes into the ring like that. Unfortunately, no one

except Slater knows which way he'll go."

Slater's unpredictable behavior has created some memorable moments in wrestling, such as his venomous feuds with Paul Jones and Mr. Wrestling II. Then, on the opposite end of the spectrum, there is his partnership with Dusty Rhodes and his recent combination with old rival Mr. Wrestling II in Georgia.

"When I told people I wanted

to team with Slater, they were astonished," said Rhodes. "One person close to me wondered how I could think of it, wondered what guarantees I had that Slater wouldn't suddenly turn on me. But I took him for his style and I gambled. Can't say we didn't make a great team."

"The first time we got together as a team I was reluctant to stick my hand out for a tag," Mr. Wrestling II remembered. "I didn't know if Slater would tag it . . . or bite it. We had a real feud going a while ago. Yet Slater was a complete gentleman and there was never a problem. Though I do realize that in another week he'd want to rip my face off. Go figure him out. I can't. I don't know anyone who can."

An explanation would seem to be in order from the source himself. Welcome, Dick Slater.

"The reason people are so bewildered is that I simply demonstrate the two halves of every person, and people won't admit that they can be both good and bad. So when I reveal the two components of Dick Slater, people are afraid because they'll be forced to confront their own personalities, thus they put me down and label me unpredictable so they won't have to face themselves.

"You telling me no one has ever been downright nasty to another person? Or really good to someone else? Or turn around and for some reason berate another person. Of course they do. How many will admit that though? And since people are irrational at times, how can I predict how I'll be tomorrow. Can you? Can anyone?"

Rocky Johnson must have wished he could have figured out what Slater would do on a recent evening in St. Louis. As the wrestlers approached each other after the opening bell, Slater inexplicably extended his



Above: Slater prepares to land a powerful elbowsmash on Spoiler's head. Dick dazzled everyone with his scientific skills. Below: Mr. Wrestling II and Slater have formed an unbeatable tag team. To many, this seems like a most unusual alliance. No one knows how long it can last.



hand for a shake. Taken aback, Johnson offered his hand. Slater violently tore at the hand and flung Rocky across the ring and into the ropes. As the puzzled Johnson ricocheted back toward the middle of the ring, Slater pummeled Rocky's face with vicious hand thrusts, drawing trickles of blood on Johnson's cheek.

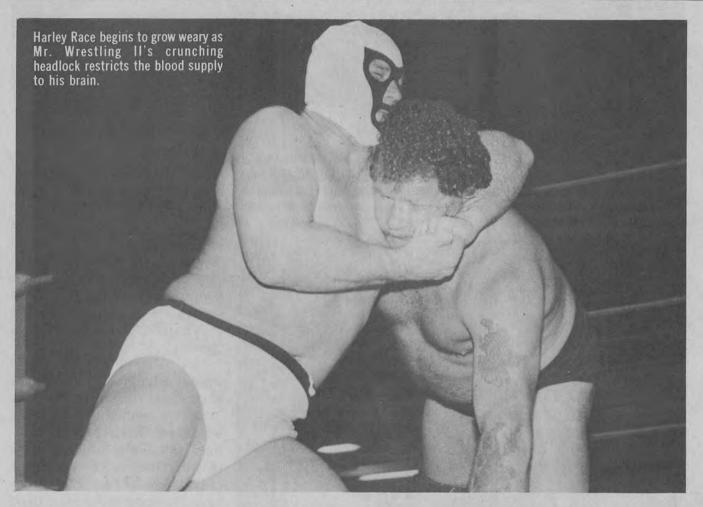
"My vibes indicated that I was in a hateful mood," Slater said calmly in his dressing room. "I felt ill with the world. The vibrations resonating about me, from Johnson, and from the crowd, reinforced my own vibes of bad, and so I was evil. Rocky would have done the same thing if he were honest with himself."

For a brief moment in the match, Johnson's handsome face curled into a venial sneer. That was followed by a questionable swipe at Slater's turned back and a quick, barely conspicuous kick near the groin. It passed, but Slater eagerly pounded on it to make his point.

"I wasn't upset by it because I knew Johnson was giving way to his natural instincts. Just like you and me, baby," Slater said.

MR.WRESTLING II'S LAST TITLE SHOT?

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE ADKINS



HARLEY RACE WAVED a white piece of paper and cackled fiendishly.

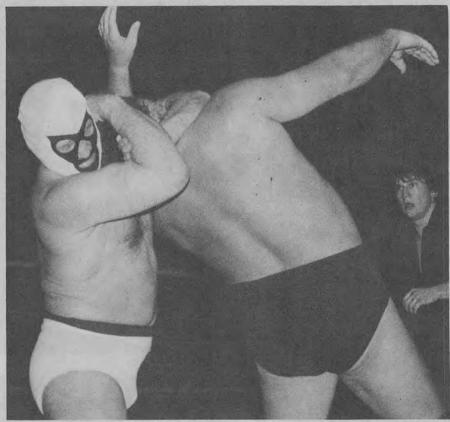
"Here's a list of about 20 guys who are better than Mr. Wrestling II, better-looking than Mr. Wrestling II, and younger than Mr. Wrestling II," shouted the

NWA champion.

"And these guys are more deservin' of a title shot than II. So from now on, when I come into Georgia, I'm gonna be wrestlin' anyone but II. They'd have to give me a million bucks to climb into the ring with that old fool again."

"I'm afraid of hurtin' the guy," said Race, sneering. "I know how fragile those old folks can be and frankly, I think he's way past his prime. 'Bout time we got some younger guys who can move around the ring and give the fans their money's worth instead of

Could this be true? Could this have been the last title shot for Mr. Wrestling II? Rumors abound that Harley Race won't give II any more title shots. But does the great masked man even want another shot? If not, then what does the future hold for Mr. Wrestling II?



Race claims Mr. Wrestling II is too old and is unworthy of another title shot. II insists Race is slipping and is afraid to give him another shot. From the looks of this action, neither man has lost a thing. Their latest battle was as intense as ever. Above: Wrestling II weakens Race with a sleeper. Below: II accidentally bumps the referee after being shoved by the champ.





Race underestimated II's recuperative powers when he climbed the turnbuckles to leap upon his fallen foe. II gets to his feet quickly and tosses Harley across the ring.

these old bums like II who can barely bend down to tie their laces."

As a man of great pride, II naturally took exception to the champion's remarks.

"Race has a lotta nerve, an awful lotta nerve going around and saying those things about me," said II. "He knows the real reason why he's running around saying things like that."

So, II, what's the reason?

"Well, it's quite obvious that Race is slipping," II stated. "He's (Continued on page 58)





When Bruiser Brody
battled Kamala the
Ugandan giant, it was
the explosion of fury
that everyone expected.
But one man watched
with a cold, scientific
interest. When the
match was over, the
ruthless watcher
pronounced the
experiment a success
and wrestling mortally
wounded





If any wrestler could match Kamala for pure violence, Texas fans thought Bruiser Brody would be the man. Kamala reaches down almost to the mat to throw a right hand at a charging Brody (above). Blood dripping from his forehead, Brody lies in a semiconscious state on the ring apron (left).

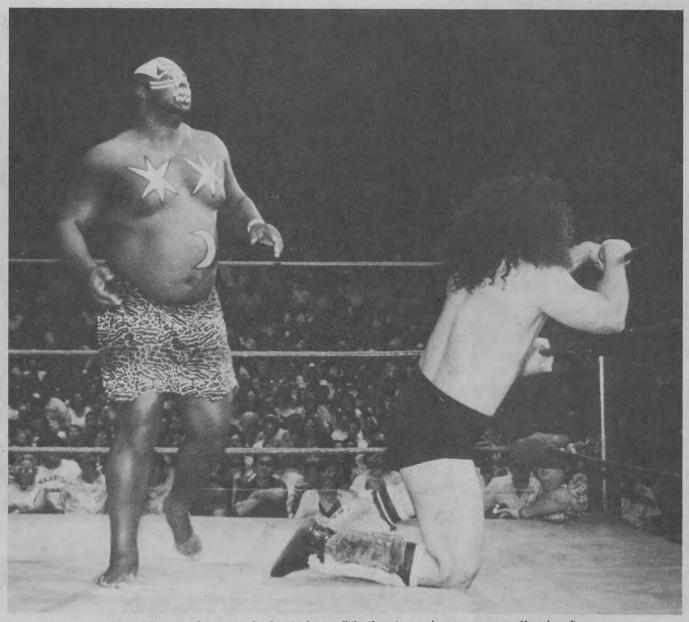
IT WAS A savage exhibition of wrestling brutality. The titanic power of Bruiser Brody warred against the overpowering violence of Kamala the Ugandan giant. At times, the crowd watched with awed silence, as if they felt like mortals witnessing a battle between gods.

For a good part of the match, the two gods appeared equal. Then Kamala gained an advantage and never surrendered it. No one is quite sure how it happened, but everyone realizes why. There is some force within Kamala, a merciless cruelty that is fascinating in a horrible way, and that force drove Kamala to conquest. Brody, victimized

by his sense of humanity, couldn't survive.

It seems odd to talk about Brody's sense of humanity, considering he's long been considered one of the toughest men in wrestling. Often, he's crossed the line between and tough and ruthless, and then crossed the line between ruthless and cruel. Yet, watching him against Kamala, you realize he is not a truly cruel man. He may do cruel things, but he doesn't set out to be inhumanly vicious. Kamala, in stark contrast, is intent on inflicting pain.

The difference between the two men is the difference between victory and conquest. A victor allows



Brody clings to the ropes, hoping to buy a little time to regain some energy. Kamala, after hesitating for a couple of seconds, was ordered by Gen. Skandor Akbar to move in on his foe.

his opponent a measure of pride. A conqueror insists on stripping his foe of all dignity. Kamala lives for conquest. And it is this merciless evil that so delights Kamala's manager, the hated Skandor Akbar.

It was Akbar's idea to hold this match. Previously, Kamala's opponents had been men like the Von Erichs, scientific wrestlers who could never hope to match Kamala for brute strength and ruthlessness. Akbar wanted to see how Kamala would do against a man famed for down and dirty brawling. Brody was his man.

pier. As the man known as Texas than any man wretling has ever

wrestling's enforcer, Brody was looking forward to teaching Kamala a lesson. Long enraged at Kamala's reign of terror, Brody prepared to put a stop to this rampage. He trained long and hard and thought he was reaching new heights of meanness. He didn't realize how cruel the winner would have to be.

Akbar knew. As he watched Kamala train, his grin spoke volumes. He sensed where the match was going and knew exactly what would happen. He longed for the inevitable result.

"My man is getting match Brody couldn't have been hap- tough," he told reporters, "tougher

Compared known. to Kamala, Brody is a Sunday school teacher. Brody has a made a career sounding tougher than he is. Well, Kamala will show him how tough a winner has to be."

"Why does he wear the war paint?" a reporter asked about Kamala.

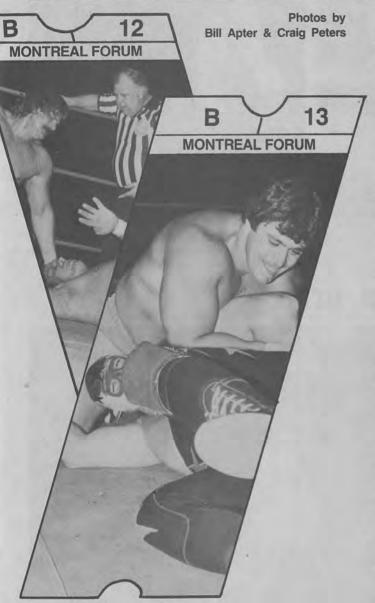
"He likes it," Akbar replied. "Don't you like it?"

"I think it's bush," the reporter admitted.

Akbar smiled and proposed, "Why don't you tell him?"

The reporter understood the point and didn't say anything. (Continued on page 54)

ANIGHT OF MAYHEM AT THE MONTREAL FORUM!



BONJOUR IS MORE than just a greeting in Montreal. It is also an invitation. An invitation to one of the most exciting, vibrant cities in North America.

Professional wrestling in "The Queen City" might be more exciting than the city itself. A number of top international stars appear regularly at the world-famous Montreal Forum, including Abdullah the Butcher, Rick Martel, The Samoans, Gino Brito, Billy Robinson, Tony

Parisi, Pat Patterson and Pierre "Mad Dog" Lefebvre (the Canadian tag team champions), and Billy Robinson. Among the most popular wrestlers in Montreal are the Rougeaus: father Jacques and his sons Raymond, Jacques Jr., and Armand. One might compare the Rougeaus to Texas' Von Erich brothers.

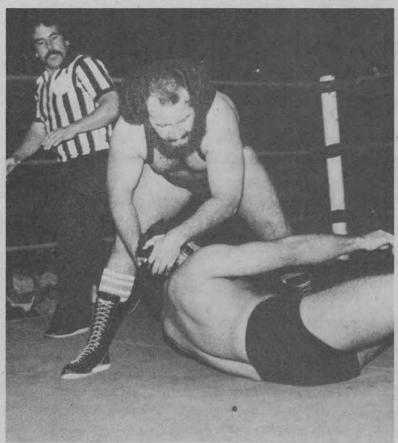
Recently, Senior Editor Bill Apter and Associate Editor Craig Peters traveled to Montreal to cover a superb wrestling card. Peters was particularly thrilled with the assignment. "When you first walk into the Forum, you are immediately struck with a feeling of the arena's history," he said. "When I looked up at the ceiling and saw how many Stanley Cup banners the Montreal Canadians won, it gave me a good feeling to know that I was covering sports in the same arena that houses the greatest franchise in the history of sport."

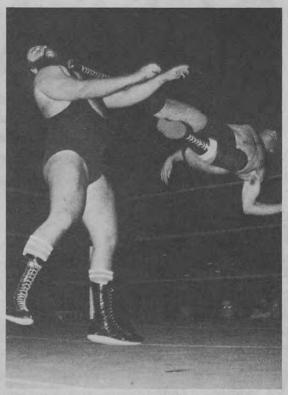
The Montreal Forum has a great wrestling history as well. Twice the National Wrestling Alliance has changed hands in the building. And on this night, Canadian International champion Dino Bravo was taking on the challenge of the Masked Superstar, with six-time former NWA champion Lou Thesz acting as special referee. "Dino has really turned into a fine singles competitor," Thesz said after the match. "I consider him one of the best in the world, and I've seen almost every top star around."

In the evening's main event, Blackjack Mulligan challenged wrestling's top attraction, the incredible Andre the Giant. Andre is obviously a natural for the French-speaking fans. His bout with Mulligan was described by Apter as "surprisingly hostile for two men who were thought to have settled their differences."

The capacity crowd at the Forum cheered wildly throughout the evening of nonstop action. In the pages that follow, *Sports Review Wrestling* hopes to be able to convey to you the excitement that those fans experienced firsthand.

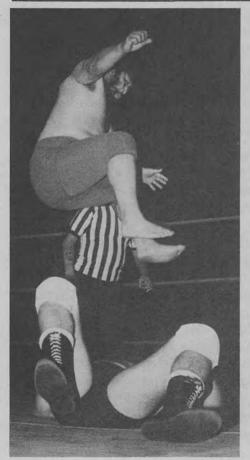
TONY RICCO VS. BOB BOUCHER

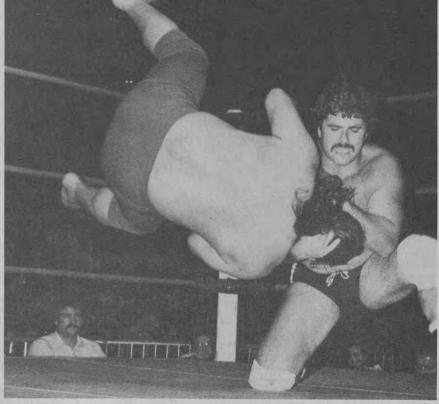




Bob Boucher tries to manhandle Tony Ricco (left). The high-flying Ricco (above) showed his class as the match progressed and was the eventual winner.

LOUIS LAURENCE VS. MR. HITO





Mr. Hito leaps high in the air and drops seatfirst on the chest of Louis Laurence (left). Laurence snapmares Hito to the canvas (above). Laurence received a disqualification victory after being thrown over the top rope.

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER VS. GINO BRITO



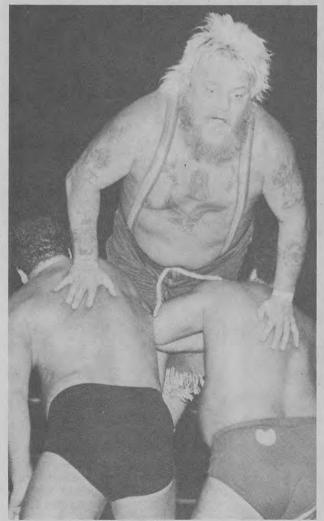




It wasn't an easy victory for Abdullah the Butcher. Covered with blood, Abdullah takes a breather outside the ring (above left). And when he wants to return, Brito won't let him (above center). Abdullah eventually knocked Brito unconscious with an elbowsmash to the face (above right).

GINO BRITO, TONY PARISI, & ARMAND ROUGEAU VS. MOONDOG WHITE,

GILLES POISSON, & KURT VON HESS





Tony Parisi and Gino Brito double-backdrop Moondog White (left). Armand Rougeau wisely keeps White close to his own corner (above). White and Gilles Poisson choke Parisi (below), but even their illegal tactics could not bring them a victory.



RICK MARTEL & BILLY ROBINSON

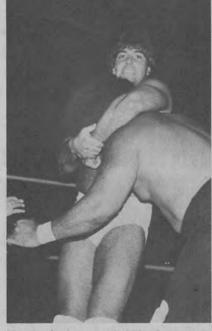
VS. THE SAMOANS

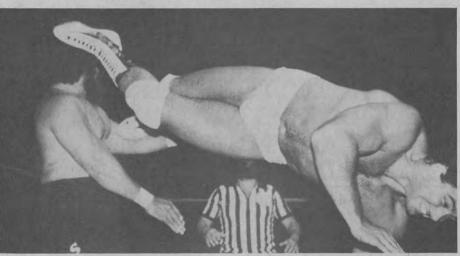






Robinson and Martel (top left) had not trained together long enough to defeat the Eddy Creatchman managed Samoans (above). Afa applies a nervehold on Martel (left).





Martel, who has wrestled The Samoans many times over the last few years, traps Afa in a headlock (above left). Rick's dropkick sends Afa reeling into the ropes (above right).







Sika uses his hands and the ring rope to choke Robinson (far left). Sika's nervehold has Martel in agony (left). The Samoans were disqualified when Sika dumped Martel over the top rope (above).

Canadian International Tag Team Title PAT PATTERSON & PIERRE LEFEBVRE (Champions)





Eddy Creatchman leads Patterson and Lefebvre into battle (top). Raymond Rougeau bodyslams Patterson (above).



Manager Creatchman hides behind Lefebvre and Patterson when challenged by Jacques Rougeau Sr. (above). Jacques' flying feet send Patterson across the ring (below).



VS. RAYMOND ROUGEAU & JACQUES ROUGEAU JR.







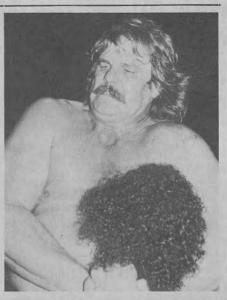
Jacques flings Lefebvre (left). Raymond backdrops Patterson (far bottom left). Patterson puts the sleeper on Jacques Jr. (bottom left). Jacques Sr. does the same to Creatchman (below).



ANDRE THE GIANT VS. BLACKJACK MULLIGAN



Andre locks Mulligan's hand and applies pressure on his elbow (above). Mulligan brings Andre down to size with a headlock (right). Mulligan grabs Andre by the hair and fires his gloved hand into the Giant's face (below left). Mulligan's clawhold has Andre near defeat (below right).







Mulligan stomps away at a seemingly defeated Andre (above). But the Giant, responding to the cheers of the crowd, battled back and preserved his undefeated record. Andre brings his head way back before delivering a headbutt (right).





Canadian International Title DINO BRAVO (Champion) VS. MASKED SUPERSTAR



Manager Lord Al Hays does not look confident about Masked Superstar's chances (above). Bravo steps forward to deliver a devastating right (below).



Superstar's early pin attempt against the Canadian International champion (above) proved unsuccessful. Timed to the chants of his loyal fans, Bravo repeatedly rings Superstar's head in his powerful arms (below).



Bravo expertly applies an armbar (above). Referee Lou Thesz asks Dino if he wants to submit to the cobra (right). Bravo escaped the hold and went on to defend his title.





OFFI WRESTIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Ric Flair



Mil Mascaras

TOP10

- 1—HARLEY RACE 253, Kansas City, MO
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT 497, Grenoble, France
- 3—NICK BOCKWINKEL 245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 4—DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX
- 5—RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN

- 6—BOB BACKLUND 242, Princeton, MN
- 7—DINO BRAVO 248, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—ADRIAN ADONIS 251, New York, NY
- 9—MIL MASCARAS 242, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—JUNKYARD DOG 260, New Orleans, LA

TAG TEAMS

- 1—JACK & JERRY BRISCO Combined Weight: 455 pounds
- 2—KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL Combined Weight: 710 pounds
- 3—THE MUSLIMS Combined Weight: 578 pounds
- 4—THE ROAD WARRIORS
 Combined Weight: 540 pounds
- 5—TERRY ALEN & HACKSAW DUGGAN Combined Weight: 525 pounds
- 6—RUFUS R. JONES & BUGSY McGRAW Combined Weight: 553 pounds
- 7—THE SAMOANS Combined Weight: 598 pounds
- 8—THE VON ERICHS*
 Combined Weight: 752 pounds*
- 9—THE MOONDOGS Combined Weight: 613 pounds
- 10—PAT PATTERSON & PIERRE LEFEBVRE Combined Weight: 476 pounds

*Combined weights reflect three team members

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion: HARLEY RACE 253, Kansas City, MO

- 1—RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—GREG VALENTINE 243, Seattle, WA
- 3—LARRY ZBYSZKO 240, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4—DORY FUNK JR. 244, Amarillo, TX
- 5—RON BASS 285, Pampa, TX
- 6—JOS LeDUC 280, Godbout, Quebec
- 7—MR. WRESTLING II 232, Atlanta, GA
- 8—SUPER DESTROYER 271, parts unknown
- 9—JIM GARVIN 235, Tampa, FL
- 10—BOB ARMSTRONG 229, Marietta, GA

AWA

World Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL 245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—WAHOO McDANIEL 260, Midland, TX
- 2—RICK MARTEL 236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 3—KEN PATERA 256, Portland, OR
- 4-MR. SAITO 247, Japan
- 5—MAD DOG VACHON 225, Algeria
- 6—BARON VON RASCHKE 271, Germany
- 7—CRUSHER BLACKWELL 474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 8—JESSE VENTURA 270, Muscle Beach, CA
- 9—GREG GAGNE 220, Robinsdale, MN
- 10—BUCK ZUMHOFE 222, Hamburg, MN

MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT 497, Grenoble, France
- 2—DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX
- 3—JUNKYARD DOG 260, New Orleans, LA
- 4—RODDY PIPER 231, Scotland
- 5—JIMMY SNUKA 250, Fiji Islands
- 6—TOMMY RICH 238, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE 245, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—DAVID VON ERICH 247, Denton, TX
- 9—BOB BACKLUND 242. Princeton, MN
- 10—OLE ANDERSON 256, Minneapolis, MN

MOST HATED

- 1—LARRY ZBYSZKO 240, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—HACKSAW REED 249, Kansas City, MO
- 3—KEVIN SULLIVAN 235, Boston, MA
- 4—RON BASS 285, Pampa, FL
- 5—TED DIBLASE 247, Omaha, NE
- 6—GREG VALENTINE 243, Seattle, WA
- 7—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
- 8—BUZZ SAWYER 240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 9—MAGNIFICENT MURACO 262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 10—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER 360, Sudan

CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF .

Champion: BOB BACKLUND 242, Princeton, MN

- 1—GEORGE STEELE 298, Detroit, MI
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER 310, Paris Island, SC
- 3—MAGNIFICENT MURACO 262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 4—JIMMY SNUKA 250, Fiji Islands
- 5—IVAN KOLOFF 249, Russia
- 6—JOHN STUDD 364, Washington, DC
- 7—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 244, Washington, DC 8—TIGER CHUNG LEE
- 270, Korea
 9—TITO SANTANA
 245. Mission. TX
- 10—IVAN PUTSKI 242, Krakow, Poland

GEORGIA

- 1—LARRY ZBYSZKO 240, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2-MR. WRESTLING II 232, Atlanta, GA
- 3—TOMIMY RICH 238, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—BUZZ SAWYER 240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 5—RONNIE GARVIN 231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—PEZ WHATLEY 238, El Paso, TX
- 7—OLE ANDERSON 256, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—BRETT WAYNE 242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 9—KILLER BROOKS 235, Lancaster, TX
- 10—RICK ROOD 233, Robinsdale, MN

WORLD CLASS

- 1—JIM GARVIN 235, Tampa, FL
- 2—KEVIN VON ERICH 254, Denton, TX
- 3—DAVID VON ERICH 247, Denton, TX
- 4—KERRY VON ERICH 251, Denton, TX
- 5—MICHAEL HAYES 255, Marietta, GA
- 6—KAMALA 360, Uganda
- 7—MIL MASCARAS 242, Mexico City, Mexico
- 8—ICEMAN PARSONS 242, St. Louis, MO
- 9—BUDDY ROBERTS 247, Del City, OK
- 10—TERRY GORDY 289. Chatanooga, TN

MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—GREG VALENTINE 243, Seattle, WA
- 2—RUFUS R. JONES 287, Boston, MA
- 3—RODDY PIPER 231, Scotland
- 4—BUGSY McGRAW 245, New York, NY
- 5—JIMMY VALIANT 251, New York, NY
- 6—THE GREAT KABUKI 252, Singapore
- 7—BOB ORTON, JR. 245, Kansas City, KS
- 8—JACK BRISCO 232, Blackwell, OK
- 9—DORY FUNK, JR. 244, Amarillo, TX
- 10—DICK SLATER 235, Tampa, FL

FLORIDA

- 1—RON BASS 285, Pampa, TX
- 2—JOS LeDUC 280, Godbout, Quebec
- 3—DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX
- 4—BARRY WINDHAM 230, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—KEVIN SULLIVAN 235, Boston, MA
- 6—THE PURPLE HAZE 235, Buffalo, NY
- 7—KING KONG MOSCA 309, Caledou, Ontario
- 8—MIKE GRAHAM 232, Tampa, FL
- 9—SCOTT McGHEE 220, Shipley, England
- 10—OX BAKER 309, Waterloo, IA

MID-SOUTH

- 1—HACKSAW REED 249, Kansas City, MO
- 2—JUNKYARD DOG 260, New Orleans, LA
- 3—HACKSAW DUGGAN 280, New York, NY
- 4-MR. WRESTLING II 232, Atlanta, GA
- 5—TED DIBLASE 247, Omaha, NE
- 6—KING KONG BUNDY 420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 7—MR. OLYMPIA 240, parts unknown
- 8—MIL MASCARAS 242, Mexico City, Mexico
- 9—KAMALA 360, Uganda
- 10—TERRY ALLEN 245, Chesapeake, VA

SOUTHWEST

- 1—ADRIAN ADONIS 251, New York, NY
- 2—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—STAN HANSEN 285, Borger, TX
- 4—ERIC EMBRY 225, Lexington, KY
- 5—BOBBY JAGGERS 255, Dunlap, KS
- 6—SCOTT CASEY 235, Amarillo, TX
- 7—TIGER CONWAY, JR. 230, Houston, TX
- 8—BOB SWEETAN 285, Round Rock, TX
- 9—SWEET BROWN SUGAR 226, Dallas, TX
- 10—AL PEREZ 234, Tampa, FL

NORTHWEST

- 1—CURT HENNIG 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—THE ASSASSIN 240, parts unknown
- 3—RIP OLIVER 245, Tampa, FL
- 4—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE 245, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—BILLY JACK 245, Portland, OR
- 6—AL MADRIL 235, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—RON RITCHIE 238, New York, NY
- 8—CHIEF TAPU 228, Samoa
- 9—BRIAN ADIDAS 238, Dallas, TX
- 10—THE GREAT TIA 236, Samoa

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

elcome to the ratings! Some new names grace our ratings pages this month. Here is a brief rundown on the men and the reasons for their respective places in the rankings:

Dino Bravo, the Canadian International heavyweight champion, this month breaks into the *Sports Review Wrestling's* Top 10. Bravo's recent title defenses, including a grueling match against Masked Superstar in The Forum in Montreal, have proven to the ratings committee that Bravo is a champion worthy of greater recognition.



Rufus R. Jones

Playboy Buddy Rose has, to the surprise of many people, made it into the Most Popular ratings. Wrestling in the Pacific Northwest, Rose is now hearing cheers since he has changed his attitude toward both the fans and the wrestlers he keeps company with.

Rufus R. Jones recently defeated Dory Funk Jr. for the Mid-Atlantic title. Jones makes his appear-

ance in the Mid-Atlantic ratings at the number two spot.

Rick Rood is a young wrestler who has been setting the Georgia area aflame. His winning record over the past months has won him national attention and acclaim. It has also won him a spot in the Georgia ratings: number 10.

Jos LeDuc recently defeated Scott McGhee for the Florida heavyweight title. As a result, he now occupies the number two spot in the Florida ratings, and the number six spot on the NWA list.

Abdullah the Butcher is an individual who hardly deserves to be called a "wrestler." His trademark is blood, and whether it's his own or his opponent's, he seems to be fueled by the sight of dripping crimson. His disgusting mutilation of wrestler after wrestler certainly earns him a spot in the Most Hated category, a spot that would be higher than number 10 if it weren't for the fact that Abdullah spends so much time out of the country.



The Freebirds

A five-man tag team match? In our tag team ratings, we occasionally rank a six-man tag team such as The Von Erichs or Freebirds rankings are noted by an asterisk next to the team's name). This is for two reasons: 1) These teams compete in sixman matches as well as conventional Australian team competition, and 2) When they do

compete in conventional matches, there is no steady combination of two men who *always* wrestle together. It could be any two of the three on any given night.

Has anyone else noticed the combined weights, however, of a recent championship combination of two men? Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell—combined weight: 730 pounds! All three Freebirds are only 61 pounds heavier, and all three Von Erich brothers only 22 pounds heavier!

A five-man tag team match pitting Sheiks Patera and Blackwell against The Freebirds or the Von Erichs seems almost fair!

The address for mail: We welcome comments and questions regarding our ratings. Send all correspondence to: Sports Review Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □





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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

competition to win the annual Gran Prix tournament.

Hogan returned upon the urging of American fans who sent him petitions in response to the cover story of the September issue of The Wrestler: "Nick Bockwinkel Forces Hulk Hogan Into Exile: And Only the Fans Can Bring Him Back."

"I have to thank all the fans who responded to the story," Hogan said. "It's great to know how much you're needed."

Upon his return, Hogan became involved in a feud with Mr. Saito. Saito had been designated to present Hogan with the Gran Prix trophy, but instead attacked the Hulk with it. "Saito made fools of all of us by saving he had reformed and had become a scientific wrestler," Hogan said. "He shall not get away with this. And that's a Hulk Hogan promise to the greatest fans in the world." -Charles F. Amberson

EMPHIS, TN-"The Universal Heartthrob" Austin Idol is crediting some of his current success in the ring to his investment counselor. Confused?

Obviously, Idol hasn't left the responsibility of his training regimen to a stockbroker. What he has done is invest in a "Waist-Away Aerobic Center" in Fort Walter, Florida.

"Aerobic training is the exercise phenomenon of the '80s," Idol said before a match here in Memphis. "It is so important to everyone's general health, and it has improved my performance 100 percent."

Idol attends aerobics classes there whenever he can, free of



AUSTIN IDOL

charge, of course, and occasionally will teach a class. "I love it," he said. "It's a lot of fun. I get to meet the people, especially the young women, and stay in superb shape at the same time."

-Randy Swift

bar has made a major acquisition. Akbar has purchased the contract of Mr. Fuji from Capt. Lou Albano, and plans to bring the Japanese star to the Mid-South area soon for a number of appearances.

"Fuji is a legend in wrestling," Akbar said. "As a tag team partner with Toru Tanaka and Mr.



FUII VS. SNUKA

Saito, he's practically owned the WWF tag team belt over the years, and he is equally as talented in singles competition."

Will Akbar team his new star with Kamala? "Only time will tell," he said. "I plan to have him destroy the top singles competition in the area, and then we'll see. The man can do anything, and with my guidance, he will do everything."

—lames Washington □

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 12)



Sweetan wanted to regain the Southwest title, but he wanted to do so in a way that would bring respect to the championship. Wrestling fans can no longer expect to see Bob wrestling scientifically, as he is doing against Ali Bey.

title because I'll be the best athlete. It's important that fans are deserves no less."

Time ate away at those noble ideals. As weeks turned to months and he still did not receive a title shot, Sweetan became desperate. He pleaded with the promoters for a chance, only

to be told Blanchard wouldn't sign. When he demanded the offiproud of the champion. The sport cials step in and force the issue, they claimed to be unable to do anything. "As long as Blanchard wrestles legitimate contenders," the kept telling him, "there's nothing we can do."

"There's nothing they can do," bitterly Sweetan repeated



Jaggers slams Sweetan in the back. Sweetan was willing to sacrifice his body to maintain a scientific style, but he will not sacrifice his career. Unfortunately, he views rulebreaking as a logical career move.

friends, "or they're too afraid to Blanchard. That's what comes of following rules. You live up to their regulations and then they hide behind technicalities. If they don't care about the sport they patrol, then I have to earn my living the best I can. And if that means ignoring a few regulations to get what I deserve, then that's what I must do."



Blanchard is willing to meet Sweetan in tag team competition, but not in a singles match for the title.

Sweetan lived up to his threats. His recent matches have seen him use illegal and brutal tactics. Years ago, Sweetan was a feared rulebreaker. Those who love the sport welcomed him to the ranks of scientific mat stars. He brought honor to the sport. Now, the tactics we hoped would never be seen again are on view in all their ugliness.

This whole episode has been a craven example of wrestling cowardice. Blanchard is afraid to risk his title against the acknowledged top contender. The officials don't have the guts to enforce what is just. As a result, Southwest wrestling has lost a hero. Southwest wrestling can't afford that.

While we can't agree with Sweetan's change of heart, we can sorrowfully accept his reasoning. We can't forgive Blanchard for putting his own ambition above the sport he professes to love.

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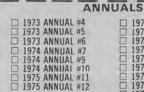
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KAMALA VS. BRODY

(Continued from page 36)

Crossing Kamala is something no sane man would do if it wasn't necessary.

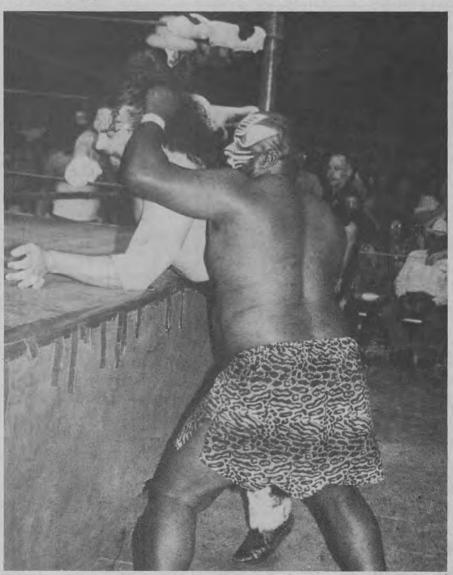
When Brody walked into the arena, Akbar looked nervous. This was the ultimate test. He'd invested much time and money in Kamala. Victory could give Akbar a stranglehold over Texas wrestling. With Kamala as the unbeatable hitman, no one could stop Akbar's stable of wrestlers, a group of man not immodestly called Destruction Inc.

As the match progressed, Akbar's nerves turned to elation. His man conquered not only Brody but mauled a couple of other wrestlers

who tried to stop the torture. His war paint smeared across face and chest, Kamala stood unvanquished and seemingly unvanquishable. It was a moment filled with horror for those who love wrestling.

There was only one man refusing to despair. In his dressing room, as the doctor sutured his wounds, the furious Bruiser Brody vowed revenge. Those who heard him knew this was more than loser's bluster. This was deeper, angrier, and almost holy in its rage.

"I know what I have to do now," Brody swore with in a voice soft but commanding. "Kamala has laid



The ruthless Kamala slams Brody's head into the ring apron (above). The Ugandan giant could not be stopped after the match. First he bloodies referee David Manning and then he punches Chris Adams (opposite page).



down the rules and I'm going to follow them. If he wants an all-out war, if only one of us can keep wrestling after it's over, then that's the way it's gonna be. I'm not afraid to end my career against Kamala. It'll be worth it, just as long as he's finished, too. Yeah, I like that idea—kamikaze matches. You go in figuring to be doomed, but so is your opponent. Yeah, I like that."

Brody took a deep breath and continued, "I've got a lot of work to do. I have strategies to devise, training to endure, and I've got to get mentally tougher. I will, too. Kamala is different from any wrestler I've ever met. Well, I'm gonna be different from any man he ever wrestled."

His muscles sore, Brody struggled into his clothes and hobbled out of the arena. He would heal. Then he would train. And then he would meet Kamala in the rematch. Perhaps both of them will survive the match. Maybe one will see his career end. Maybe both will suffer injuries so grievous that neither will ever wrestle again.

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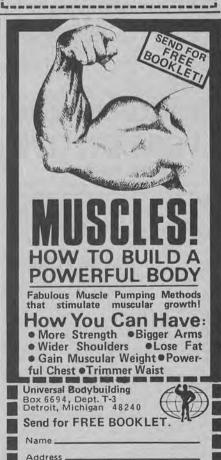
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

when both magazines were released for sale the same week?

Please explain these odd ratings. DANNY KRAUSS

Brooklyn, NY Æditor's note: At the time the September issue went to press, Magnificent Muraco was rated number one in the WWF and was scheduled to wrestle Bob Backlund for a series of title matches. Also at press time, Butch Reed changed his attitude to that of a rulebreaker, a situation you've no doubt read about in this magazine and in our sister publications. As for Ric Flair and Harley Race, the discrepancy is due to the fact that while both magazines do go on sale the same week, Pro Wrestling Illustrated's ratings are compiled a week earlier than those for Sports Review Wrestling. We always strive to have the ratings in each issue as up to date as possible.]

LAWLER'S THE GREATEST

How can anyone say that Jerry Lawler isn't great? He's beaten "The Heartthrob," Austin Idol,

"The World's Strongest Wimp," Ken Patera, and AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel. It's a privilege for people just to be able to see Jerry wrestle. If you ever get a chance to see him, you'd better take it. He's the best AWA Southern champion in profesional wrestling history!

> JASON PINTER McMinnville, TN

STAY, BARRY!

An open letter to Barry Windham: I would just like to let you know, Barry, that the wrestling fans here in Florida aren't going to let you go away that easy! I personally think that you are the best thing that has happened to Florida wrestling in a long time. So please don't leave! I haven't been able to go to one of your matches yet-I've only seen them on televisionbut I've been following every move you make here in Florida. Keep up the good work, and don't ever leave.

> KIM COATES Belleview, FL



Barry Windham (applying an armlock on Ric Flair) is encouraged to stay in Florida by "Mailbag" contributor Kim Coates.

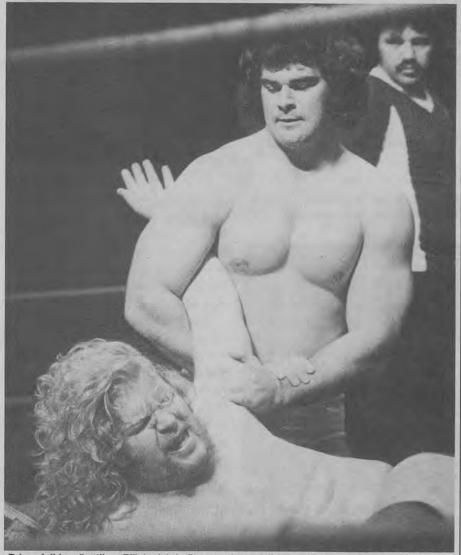
VALENTINE OWES PIPER

It seems to me that Greg Valentine sees nothing wrong in impairing someone's hearing. To most wrestling fans, his actions are totally unacceptable. I'm sure Roddy Piper agrees with us. After all, it was his ear that Greg Valentine decided to mutilate.

ADIDAS IS MISSED

An open letter to Brian Adidas:

I would like to start out by saying that we miss you. All of your fans in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area want you to come back. We're being kept pretty much in the dark about your career, knowing only that you're doing wonderfully in



Brian Adidas (battling Bill Irwin) built up a loyal following in the Dallas-Fort Worth area before relocating in the Pacific Northwest. Reader Ana Garabedian would like to see Brian return to Texas.

'Taking someone's ear is nothing, but when it comes to Piper wanting to choke the life out of Valentine, it's "Hey, nobody messes with 'The Hammer.' "If that's the way Valentine is thinking, then his thoughts are getting a tiny bit pathetic.

I think Valentine owes Piper a love you and we milittle something. How about his neck? Please come home!

DORIS CARRION Mocksville, NC the Northwest. You are one of the greatest wrestlers alive and we miss you and your truly extraordinary style.

There are rumors here that you might return to the area soon. Well, soon isn't soon enough for all of your fans here in Texas. We love you and we miss you, Brian! Please come home!

ANA GARABEDIAN Arlington, TX □



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All the back issues of the ORIGINAL WRES-TLING REVUE listed for sale in this advertisement were edited and published by Stanley Weston, who founded Wrestling Revue in 1959 and sold his interests in the magazine in 1964. These extremely rare back issues have not been available to the public for more than 15 years, although many have been sold by private collectors for as much as 75 dollars per copy. This is a rare opportunity for those of you who collect and treasure truly fine wrestling magazines of great historic importance, at a price you can afford. Most of these issues contain magnificent, full color pin up portraits of the world's greatest wrestlers, some of whom are still active. The supply of these collector's treasures is very limited, so order today and avoid disappointment.

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MR. WRESTLING II

(Continued from Page 33)



Above: Just before his palm hits the mat for the third time, the referee notices Mr. Wrestling II's foot draped across the bottom rope. Below: Race takes hold of II's trunks to avoid being pinned.



been slipping a long, long time. Each match, whether against me or some other guy, shows the decline and fall of Harley Race.

"Now Race knows that out of all the NWA contenders, I'm the one who knows him best. I'm the one with the mental know-how and physical skills and experience to exploit his deterioration.

"Some of these other guys, now they're real good, and II's never been one to knock anyone, mind you. But Race can finagle and cheat and somehow compensate for his diminishing skills with the kids because he has the experience over them. "But with me, Race knows that any little trick he's apt to pull, I've seen a thousand times in my ring years," said II. "Against me he's stripped naked, so to speak. All he can do against me is wrestle. I can overcome any of his little tricks. And he knows his skills are going, so that's why he's afraid to wrestle me. That's why he said this was my last title shot."

Despite II's reasoned analysis, Race maintains the reason for not granting II any more title shots lies in his own self-perceived notion of a "title shot."

"I know other punks don't have the faintest notion of what it means to be a champion," he said. "That's why those punks keep losin' the titles in a short time. You can bet' that Barry Windham won't be around too long. And look at Rhodes. Look how quickly that slob lost my title.

"So I have a notion of what it means to be a champion and wrestle under constant pressure and maintain a certain standard. Now, it don't take any great brain to figure out that a Mr. Wrestling II would lower the standards of any title, much less the human race, as he does now.

"And when I'm considerin' who should get a title shot, I gotta think of the dignity of my sport. I gotta think who is deservin' or not. Now, is II, a guy who shoulda retired years ago, the kinda man who should get a title shot? If a guy like II gets a title shot, then bums off the street should get a title shot. I'm not gonna let this great sport be brought down by a masked mope like Mr. Wrestling II," yelled Race.

And what if this is the final title shot for Mr. Wrestling II? What then?

"Oh, I don't know. Somehow I don't think Race has much longer as champion, so why should I really worry what the guy says," said II, grinning.

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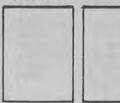
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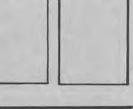


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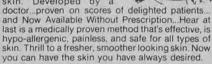
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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 10)



Blackjack Mulligan is cutting off the blood supply to the brain when he applies his clawhold. Steve Cohan considers that quite dangerous.

tling would be better off without it. I don't want to sound gross or anything, but a man can live without an arm or a leg, but he can't really live without a brain. I've seen Blackjack Mulligan apply the hold, and when he really has it cinched down tight, he's cutting off the blood supply to the brain. It doesn't seem very healthy to me."

James Carpenter, Houston: "I don't think any holds should be banned. You can't stop the progress of the technical aspects of wrestling, just like you can't stop the wrestlers from getting bigger

and stronger, which they're doing every year. Wrestling is a tough sport, and the men that go into it know all the hazzards beforehand. Leave wrestling alone and the participants and the fans will be a lot happier."

Bob Serians, Charlotte, NC: "The Mid-Atlantic region has always been the home of the figure-four leglock. From the master of the hold, Nature Boy Buddy Rogers, to the Brisco Brothers, to Greg Valentine, to Ric Flair, we've seen the best applications of that hold in professional wrestling. It is un-



Ric Flair has Tommy Rich in severe pain. Properly applied, the figure-four leglock can seriously injure a man.

doubtedly a very effective hold, but is it safe? I don't think so. Just the amount of controversy surrounding the figure-four tells an observer that it is dangerous. There have been too many injuries suffered because of it. The pressure placed on the bones, and especially the knee joint, could debilitate the victim. I think wrestling could do without it. There are a lot of other holds to use."

Karen Harrington, Lexington, KY: "The sleeperhold seems like a very dangerous maneuver to me. If it cuts off the blood supply to the brain, brain cells are dying. It could have a serious effect on a wrestler. Bill Dundee uses the sleeperhold, and he wins a lot of matches with it, but if it's dangerous, it should be banned. Why do there have to be submission holds in wrestling anyway. I think it puts an unnecessary element of danger into the sport. If a man is a true champion, he can pin any man's shoulders to the mat."

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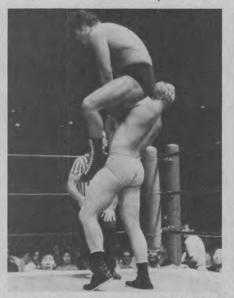
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BACKLUND VS. INOKI

(Continued from page 28)





The match was a see-saw affair. In the late going, Backlund took a quick advantage when he displayed his great strength by picking Inoki up, high into the air (above, left). Despite an excruciating leghold (above, right), Inoki recovered to down Backlund and jump on him (below).



Backlund against the ropes. A loud eruption of joy warmed the arena.

"It helps to have your people behind you," smiled Inoki.

Unbridled electricity raced through these two brilliant wrestlers. Back and forth, they mirrored maneuvers. two straining, sweating figures savagely seeking that subtle edge.

Inoki tossed Backlund to the canvas. Backlund responded, and knocked down Inoki, but was unable to pin giant Oriental. Inoki staggered to his feet, digested the encouraging shouts and attempted a rough move on Backlund's legs. The American fell to the ground to deafening waves of approval.

"He'll win," shouted a reporter at ringside. It was a premature celebration.

Backlund lifted Inoki, an incredible feat, and hurled him to the ground. The silent. crowd was their mouths open and mute. Backlund dove at Inoki, This was to be the finishing blow.

With astonishing and effective agility, Inoki tumbled away, rose and seized Backlund by the chest. The arena went berserk as Inoki and Backlund tore at each other.

"Backlund's way ahead in this one," an American writer concluded.

"Inoki should get the decision," a Japanese journalist thundered.

Actually, neither man did win this match. The bout was declared a draw.

No winners?

Or two?

Does it matter?



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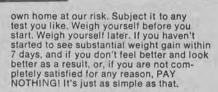
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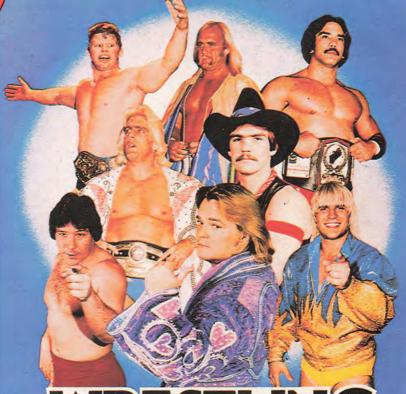
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